

LANSING EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Eastern High School, Faculty Cafeteria

Members Present: Lou Hekhuis – Chairman, Stefanie Dummer-Wolter – acting recorder, Eleanor Doersam, Jerry King, Virgil Langworthy, Mark Hahn, Dave Cushion, Nancy Walker, Leland Walker, Don Johnson, Jack Gunther, Jim Lynch, Ron Morgan, Deb Canja, Sherri Sande, Carl Word, Donna Pohl

L. Hekhuis brought the meeting to order and talked about a conversation he had with Fritz Kellerman from Sexton who is trying to form a Sexton Alumni Association.

M. Hahn made a motion to accept the minutes from last meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

J. Lynch spoke about the Community Dream Project. They have hired an architect and professional fundraiser, Joe Wald. He showed the group the layout of the stadium. They have been cleared by the Lansing School District to go ahead with the building. It will have a nine lane track, 3 locker rooms, and be gated. MSHAA has approved the design. It has a \$4 million dollar price tag. Completion of the building is scheduled for 2010. They are trying to keep the Lansing School District out of the finances. They do receive money from the leasing of the Sparrow parking lots connected to Pattengill.

The Alumni Website is now a reality. L. Walker is the web master and the site address is www.lehsalumni.com. S. Dummer-Wolter discussed the need for information to be put on the site and V. Langworthy mentioned that the site is only as good as the information on it. We will have four basic focuses at the beginning of the process: Alumni Contact, Reunion help, History, Donations. It will cost \$12.59 a month. The Community Foundation said that we can pay for the site through our available funds.

Next, L. Hekhuis introduced the guests at the meeting. First Debbie Canja who is the new parent teacher coordinator. She will be focusing on the 9th grade students and parents working with them to show them a path to high school success.

Our second guest was Sherri Sande, Intervention Specialist. She is working with the Restorative Justice Program and Peer Mediation programs. She works in conjunction with Debbie Canja.

Our third guest was the new Assistant Principal, Carl Word. He told us about his history and the joy he has working in a school that has such a strong alumni.

V. Langworthy then spoke about the state of the Quaker Corp. He said that the Lansing School District created positions that were necessary for the Quaker Corp to get up and running and those were the positions of the guests at the meeting today. He asked that a mailer be sent/email sent to ask for volunteers for the program and to also have a request to be a committee chair for the program.

C. Word then spoke on his School within a School idea. He mentioned first that the school was going to start honoring those successful students. If a student receives a B/C grade point they will be part of the Honor Guard. Those with a 3.5 or higher will be put on the Honor Roll. Every nine weeks these students will have a special lunch and activity. At the end of the year they will take a trip to Cedar Point.

C. Word then reported that Eastern has 142 repeating 9th grade, with 90% of them failing one or more classes. 300 freshmen are struggling. He is proposing that we take 150 kids and form a School within a School. The students would have longer days 7:15am – 4 pm. They would take extra classes before school and then after school. They would work in small groups (10) and possible wear uniforms. Parents and students would both have to accept the terms. There is some funding from the School District, but he also suggested we contact the Kellogg Foundation. What he is asking for is money, alumni to be mentors, and teachers to work the program – the teacher would receive a stipend. It is a Credit Recover program. This program would start ASAP and then meld into the Quaker Corp concept.

S. Dummer –Wolter then handed out a donor list that included the list from last meeting and a list from all past donors to the Community Foundation. The members were asked to look the list over and contact Stefanie with any corrections.

The next meeting will be December 17, 2008 at 3pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Stefanie Dummer-Wolter